Philosophy 4
Intro to Philosophy
Exam #1 Study Guide
Fall 2006

1) Distinguish between the following terms: *metaphysics*, *epistemology*, and *ethics*.
2) Explain Socrates' claim that true wisdom is knowing that you are not wise. How does this relate to the discipline of philosophy?
3) What is Socratic Irony? Give a specific example.
4) What is Socrates' defense against Meletus' charge of atheism?
5) What is the relationship between evil and knowledge for Socrates?
6) What is wrong with having a fear of death for Socrates?
7) Explain Socrates' claim that he is a gadfly to the people of Athens.
8) Explain Plato's Allegory of the Cave. How is this allegory a metaphor for philosophy, for knowledge, for education, for reality, and for Socrates' own life.
9) Explain Plato's doctrine of the Forms in relation to the divided line example. Give a thorough explanation of the divided line.
10) Explain John Locke's distinction between philosophy as the love of truth versus enthusiasm.
11) Explain the role of reason in divine revelation for John Locke.
12) Explain Bertrand Russell's claim that people who consider philosophy useless have a wrong conception of the ends of life.
13) For Bertrand Russell, what is the relationship between philosophy and the various more specialized sciences?
14) Explain why there is value in philosophy, for Russell, even if there is no philosophical progress, per se.
15) Explain the role of wonder and mystery in Bertrand Russell's account of philosophy. How does this wonder or mystery properly orient us to reality?
16) What is the distinction between rationalism and empiricism?
17) What is the relationship between knowledge and recollection for Plato? Explain how the argument in the *Meno* is supposed to establish this relationship? What are some problems with this argument?
18) What is foundationalism? What is foundationalism's biggest challenge? Explain the role of Foundationalism in Descartes' thought. What is the specific foundation that Descartes' claims to have discovered?
19) What is the standard for knowledge that Descartes lays out in his Meditations?
20) What are the three sources of doubt in Descartes' first Meditation? Why are they presented in this order?
21) Explain Descartes' Evil Genius hypothesis. What role does this

play in his overall system?
22) Explain the following phrase in relation to Descartes: “Cogito ergo sum.”
23) What is mind-body dualism? Give an account of Descartes’ two arguments for this position. What are some potential problems for each argument?
24) For Descartes, what is the essential property of “body” [a.k.a. res extensa], and what is the essential property of “mind” [a.k.a. res cogitans]?
25) Give a detailed account of each of Descartes’ two arguments for God’s existence (cosmological and ontological). Why does Descartes claim that he needs to offer such arguments in the first place?
26) What is the standard of justification for religious belief on Descartes’ view?
27) If God is not a deceiver, as Descartes claims, why then do humans ever make errors regarding knowledge?
28) Explain Hume’s account of the origin of our ideas. How does this account differ from that of Descartes, specifically regarding innate ideas?
29) Explain Hume’s distinction between relations of ideas and matters of fact. What is Hume’s view on each of these?
30) Explain Hume’s view that we can have no knowledge. How is this view tied to his considerations on matters of fact and on the nature of causation?
31) What is the role of custom or habit in Hume’s account of the nature of causation.
32) Explain the following paraphrase of Hume’s view of causation: “Necessary connexion is constant conjunction.”